

The Fort Eustis Retiree Newsletter

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Office of the Adjutant General



Special points of interest:

- Military Voting
- Pharmacy Co-Pay Reimbursement
- Area Job Fairs



Officials Committed to Helping Military Members Vote

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- Defense officials are committed to ensuring military members have the ability to vote from anywhere in the world, DoD's top personnel officer said.

"We're making a decided effort to make sure everyone gets the chance to vote," said David S. C. Chu, Undersecretary for Personnel and Readiness, in an interview with American Forces Press Service and the Pentagon Channel.

Voting assistance officers are available on military installations and in units to assist service members in finding information for their home states and districts. These officers can help them register to vote and request absentee ballots.

DoD has designated two specific weeks to raise awareness of issues facing military voters specifically, and more generally, everyone who must vote by absentee ballot. The week-plus timeframe Sep. 3-11, which includes Labor Day, has been designated Armed Forces Voters Week. Columbus Day week, Oct. 11-15, will be Absentee Voting Week.

"We want to bring to light the availability of services provided to assist military members and their family members," the spokesman said.

Chu said a good source of information is the Web site of the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP). The site includes links to absentee voting rules for all states and jurisdictions.

From this site, potential voters can fill out and submit an online version of the Federal Post Card Application, which allows individuals to register to vote or request an absentee ballot from nearly all U.S. jurisdictions.

Finally, Chu said, people should be aware they can use a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot to vote in congressional and presidential elections if they don't receive their absentee ballots in time. Information on using this form is also available on the FVAP Web site.

"You can (use this form) if you're a registered voter," Chu said. "And that is one of your last-ditch options."



TRI-CARE May Reimburse Pharmacy Co-Pay for Other Insurance



On June 1, Express Scripts, Inc. (ESI) took over the TRICARE retail pharmacy program. Since that time, some of our members have experienced continuing problems with reimbursement of copayments for other health insurance (OHI). If you are a TRICARE beneficiary who has OHI, you are eligible to have TRICARE reimburse your OHI pharmacy copayments.

You can get your OHI copayments reimbursed by filing a paper TRICARE claim (DD FORM 2642). Along with the claim form, you must enclose further documentation -- providing a

copy of the pharmacy receipt on the pharmacy's letterhead or a billing form showing the:

- Name of the drug
- Strength (100 mg, 500mg, etc.)
- Quantity (number of pills/doses)
- Cost paid by your OHI
- Amount you paid
- Prescription number and date of fill
- Days supply is not "required." However, if after calculating the supply, calling the pharmacy, etc.--and if days supplied can't be determined based on the information, the claim is rejected.
- Prescriber's name or DEA #
- Pharmacy's name

- Pharmacist signature only if the claim is not printed on an "acceptable format" (pharmacy stamp, letterhead, etc.) If it looks like it was printed on a home computer (plain paper), then a signature is required
- Receipts are OK, except your name needs to be on it

If you use a TRICARE network pharmacy you will be reimbursed the full co-pay in most situations. But if you use a non-TRICARE network pharmacy; you must first meet the annual TRICARE deductibles. After that, in most circumstances, DoD will refund the co-pay amount.

Forms should be sent to:

ESI
PO Box 66518
St. Louis, MO 63166-6518

Retain House SBP Provision in Final Defense Bill

The House-passed version of the FY 2005 National Defense Authorization Act would end the age-62 Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity reduction in 3 1/2 years. It also would allow retired members not enrolled in SBP to join the program by paying incremental in-

creases in premiums based on how long they have been retired.

The Senate bill includes an SBP provision that would phase out the age-62 benefit cut over 10 years and make "open-season" enrollees pay all back premiums plus interest from their date of retirement.

Many support the House version because it brings long-overdue relief to thousands of survivors in 1/3 the time of the Senate provision and encourages more retirees to join the program and protect their survivors.

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Army Echo Tidbits

Deadline nears for certain widows to have DIC Restored

Widows or widowers of any age who lost benefits under VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) program because of remarriage are eligible for reinstatement of monthly DIC payments if their subsequent marriage ends. Surviving spouses who were receiving DIC and remarried before Dec. 16, 2003 and after their 57th birthdays have until Dec. 15, 2004 in which to apply to have the DIC restored. The one-year application period limit does not apply to surviving spouses who remarried on or after age 57 after the law was passed.

Call the VA at 1-800-827-1000 or go to <http://www.va.gov> for information.

Veterans Group Life Insurance information – anywhere, any time

WASHINGTON – Veterans can access their Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) accounts at any time from any computer or phone.

Using a secure Web site, the VGLI Online Account Access system lets veterans get basic information on their accounts at

<http://www.insurance.va.gov>.

Veterans can view their current amount of coverage, premium rate, and billing method, as well as change their billing address. In the future, veterans will have access to more online tools letting them change their method and frequency of payment.

New features added to myPay system

DFAS — Effective September, retirees and annuitants can register their e-mail addresses via the myPay system run by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). Using these e-mail addresses, DFAS will be able to send notifications and information to these retirees and annuitants as the need arises. Also retirees can elect electronic-only delivery of the retiree account statements and tax statements.

The myPay system lets you access and make certain updates to your retired pay or survivor annuity information. You can access myPay at <http://myPay.dfas.mil>. Current DFAS figures show that only 22% of retirees and 4% of annuitants are using myPay.

New TRICARE Retiree Dental Program

We are pleased to present the

TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP),

the premier dental benefits plan created by Congress especially for Uniformed Services retirees and their family members and administered by Delta Dental of California. The information on this site will introduce you to this unique program, from the rules that determine eligibility and a description of the service area that allows you broad access to coverage, to your options in choosing a dentist and instructions on how to enroll in the program—all designed around a comprehensive scope of benefits to help you and your family gain and maintain good dental health.

Under contract with the US Department of Defense, the Federal Services Division of Delta Dental of California administers the TRDP with the same high level of quality, service and dependability for which Delta is known nationwide.

This unique program offers:

- Comprehensive coverage for the most commonly needed and sought-after dental services with the full scope of benefits available after only 12 months.

- The choice to visit any licensed dentist in the service area, or for more cost savings, to choose from over 67,000 network dentist locations.

- Affordable monthly premiums deducted automatically from Uniformed Services retired pay.

Those who are currently enrolled in the basic program may choose to upgrade their coverage and get many of the enhanced benefits immediately upon their coverage effective date.

Interested in enrolling in the enhanced TRDP? Enroll online, download an application, or call Customer Service at 1 (888) 838-8737 today.

<http://www.ddpdelta.org>

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Disabled Soldier Support System

The Army has established a Disabled Soldier Support System (DS3) to provide severely disabled Soldiers and their families with advocacy and personal support to assist them as they transition from military service.

The DS3 incorporates existing programs to provide support services for severely disabled Soldiers and their families from initial casualty notification to their return home. DS3 also tracks severely disabled Soldiers beyond their medical retirement to provide assistance through existing service providers.

As the advocate for severely disabled Soldiers and their families, DS3 facilitates communication between them and local, Federal and national agencies and organizations, such as the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Veterans Service Organizations.

The program is not limited to Soldiers disabled by combat wound or injury; however, many of those currently being helped by the still-growing DS3 staff were injured in Operations Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Enduring Freedom (OEF) in Afghanistan. Currently, the DS3 team includes only seven members; however, they expect to have 16 staff members within a year. They are providing support to 637 severely disabled Soldiers and their families.

Members of the DS3 team are available through the Army Information Hotline, 1-800-833-6622.

Information is online at

<http://www.ArmyDS3.org>.

Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC)



The Application for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC), DD Form 2860 (TEST), MAY 2003, has been replaced by DD Form 2860 TEST (V2), SEP 2003. If you have completed the old form for submission, proceed or mail it to the appropriate agency. Retirees who have not filed a claim and think that they meet the requirements, can go to the website online to retrieve the new form at:

<http://www.dod.mil/prhome/crsc.html>.

Combat Related Special Compensation is a special benefit for certain disabled military retirees. Congress enacted the benefit in the Fiscal Year 2003

Defense Authorization Act.

Military retirees receiving disability compensation from the Veterans Affairs Office will have their military retired pay reduced by the amount of the disability compensation. CRSC will replace some of that reduction (except for any part of the compensation paid to dependents). CRSC will be paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Services, Cleveland, which will make payments retroactive to June 1, 2003 for those whose disability occurred before the mentioned date.

To be eligible, the retiree must have at least 20 years of active duty or a combination of active duty and reserve points equaling 20 years of full-time active duty,

(7200 points), and either a VA disability rating 10 percent or higher associated with award of the purple heart; or a VA disability rating 60 percent or higher for other illness or injuries attributed to combat situations, combat-oriented training, hazardous duty or instrumentality of war.

Combat Related Special Compensation is not granted automatically. Retirees who believe they are eligible must apply for it at the website.

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Virginia Area Job Fairs

This list displays the date, location and title of upcoming job fairs in the Virginia area:

September 9	Beaumont, VA	Department of Juvenile Justice Career Day
September 14	Chesapeake, VA	Regional Armed Forces Job Fair
September 16	Chantilly, VA	Defense Career Fair
September 24	Annandale, VA	Corporate Gray Job Fair
September 29 - 30	Alexandria, VA	Career Development JMO Hiring Conference
October 11 - 12	Alexandria, VA	Lucas Group Military Hiring Conference
October 19	Virginia Beach, VA	Career Connection's Fall Career Day
October 28	Hampton, VA	The Armed Forces Job Fair-Peninsula
October 29	Fort Belvoir, VA	JETS JOB FAIR
November 17 - 18	Alexandria, VA	Career Development JMO Hiring Conference
November 18 - 19	Alexandria, VA	Lucas Group Military Hiring Conference

This list displays the date, location and title of upcoming job fairs in the surrounding Virginia area:

September 16	Fort Bragg, NC	NCOA Job Fair
September 22	Fort Meade, MD	Fort Meade Community Job Fair
September 23	Linthicum, MD	Defense Career Fair
September 27 - 28	Baltimore, MD	Orion International Hiring Conference
October 7	Fort Bragg, NC	Job Fair
October 22	Greenbelt, MD	Corporate Gray Job Fair
October 25 - 26	Cary, NC	Orion International Hiring Conference

Armed Forces Retirement Homes

Veterans are eligible to become a resident of an Armed Forces Retirement Home if their active duty service in the military was at least 50 percent enlisted, warrant officer or limited duty officer and they are a:

- Veteran with 20 or more years of active duty service and at least 60 years old,
- Veteran unable to earn a livelihood due to a service-connected disability,
- Veteran unable to earn a livelihood due to non-service connected disability, who served in a war theater or received hostile pay, or
- Female veteran who served prior to 1948

Applicants must be able to live independently at the time of admission. Members receive quarters, meals, medical care, laundry, dry cleaning and shoe repair services. There is also a comprehensive recreation and hobby shop program with a variety of both indoor and outdoor activities.

There are two Armed Forces Retirement Homes, one located at the Gulfport, Mississippi campus nestled on 47 acres along the beautiful beaches of the Gulf of Mexico. The Washington, DC campus sits on 320 acres of majestic view and historic landmarks.

You can contact Armed Forces Retirement Homes on website:

<http://www.afrh.gov>

or call 1-800-332-3527 for Gulfport, MS and 1-800-422-9988 for the Washington, DC campus.

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Retiree Appreciation Day

Fort Eustis' annual Retiree Appreciation Day will be Saturday 18 September 2004. The opening ceremony will be held at the Fort Eustis Post Exchange Food Court at 9:00 am.

The majority of the activities will take place at the Post Exchange and the Commissary from 9:00am—2:00pm, with other activities taking place at the bowling alley and, Pines Golf Course.

Retirees, spouses, and family members are encouraged to attend. There will be plenty of helpful information and medical screenings. Booths will be set up in the mall of the PX from agencies such as Veterans Administration, Disable American Veterans, American Legion, Red Cross, Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP), Staff Judge Advocate (SJA), VA Employment Commission, TRICARE, Social Security, Noncommissioned Officer Association and many more.

Bring your questions and leave with answers.

Check out the Antique Car Show at the AAFES parking lot and visit the Exchange for unique specials for your shopping pleasure. Then visit the Commissary Park Lot and store to take advantage of specials in those locations.

There will be Bingo, Wheel of Fortune and drawings throughout the day, culminating with an opportunity to win a car for the weekend.

For more information, contact the RSO, Deatrice Elie at 878-3648.

Fort Eustis Retiree Council Members

The Fort Eustis Retiree Council members are interested in your concerns and ideas. They work hard to ensure your best interest is at hand and are always available to assist you. If you want to become a member of the Retiree Council or just want to obtain more information about the council, please feel free to contact them. The members' names and numbers are provided below:

Chairman

MAJ (Ret) Ed Rock 757-874-9152

Co-Chairman

SGM (Ret) Charles E. Harris 757-874-4850

Members

LTC (Ret) Monica Lee 757-878-2204

Ms. Deatrice Elie (RSO) 757-878-3648

COL (Ret) Charles S. Jones 757-766-2541

MAJ (Ret) Dick Tarr 757-872-8277

CPT (Ret) Jim Regas 757-865-7343

CSM (Ret) Clarence Best 757-878-2692

SGM (Ret) Moses Gayle Jr. 757-877-8136

1SG (Ret) Richard L. Matthias 804-693-9739

MSG (Ret) John Smoyer 757-872-7732

SFC (Ret) Princes Baker 757-887-5360

SFC (Ret) Luis Fuentes 757-877-0687

SFC (Ret) Chuck Thompson 804-693-0154

SFC (Ret) Bob Hayes 804-725-2929

Ms Vicky Newberry 757-878-4920

Mrs. Peg Boarman 757-565-0032
(Recorder / Widow Representative)

JUST VOTE



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WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!